



April 21-27, 2013
National Crime Victims' Rights Week

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a designated recognition to honor local champions of crime victims' rights, victims' service providers and advocates who have promoted healing and advanced the rights of crime victims, despite many challenges.

This year's theme, **New Challenges * New Solutions**, reflects the increasingly complex mission of victim advocates today. We face emerging challenges, such as globalization, changing demographics, immigration, human trafficking, terrorism, new types of crime, and the use of technology to commit and solve crimes.

This week also celebrates the spirit that will advance the progress victim advocates have achieved. Through decades of advocacy and hard work, we have come a long way. Today, all states have enacted crime victims' rights laws and established crime victim compensation funds.

In 1995, the Virginia Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act was passed. Local victim/witness and statewide victim assistance programs must provide information and assistance to crime victims (see §§19.2-11.01 and 19.2-11.1). This legislation is commonly referred to as the Victims Bill of Rights.

In recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services will host an event to pay tribute to victims of crime and the important role of advocacy demonstrated by victims' services providers in the Commonwealth.

Several state leaders will be participating in the event, which will be **Thursday, April 25th** from 11:00AM until Noon at the Bell Tower on the Capitol grounds.





National Crime Victims' Rights Week
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"New Challenges * New Solutions"

National Crime Clock Statistics:

A violent crime occurred every	26.2 seconds
One Murder every	36.0 minutes
One Forcible Rape every	6.3 minutes
One Robbery every	1.5 minutes
One Aggravated Assault every	42.0 seconds
A Property Crime occurred every	3.5 seconds
One Burglary every	14.4 seconds
One Larceny-theft every	5.1 seconds
One Motor Vehicle Theft every	44.1 seconds

*Above statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)
Uniform Crime Report (UCR), 2011*

Behind every crime is a victim.

According to Virginia's Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act, "Victim" means a person who suffered physical, psychological or economic harm as a direct result of the commission of any felony, or certain misdemeanors. This includes assault and battery; assault and battery against a family or household member; stalking; sexual battery; attempted sexual battery; or driving while intoxicated. The victims can be spouses and children of all victims; parents and guardians of minor victims; parents, siblings or guardians of mentally or physically incapacitated victims and/or victims of homicide; and foster parents or other caregivers, under certain circumstances.

For information and assistance regarding your rights as a crime victim, please contact your local victim witness program or the toll-free Virginia Crime Victim Assistance Info-Line at 1-888-887-3418.

Additional information regarding the Info-Line may be found at www.dcjs.virginia.gov/victims.

